

Western Arctic Caribou Herd

Technical Committee

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Anchorage Marriott Downtown Juneau/Haines Room
820 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska

8:30 Call to Order

Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Announcements

Confirm facilitators and note-takers for the Working Group Caribou
Roundtable sessions

8:45 Status of Herd and Recommendations to the Working Group

The 2011 Cooperative Management Plan (p. 17) requires that each year, agency biologists will “evaluate the status of the herd and develop recommendations on herd management level for the Working Group”.

Discussion topics:

- Herd status
- WAH Cooperative Management Plan - Management & Harvest Level (Table 1; Appendix 2)
- Need for minor corrections to Table 1?
- Recommendations to Working Group re: herd status and management level

10:30 Break

10:45 Technical Committee Assignments – Report & Discuss

10:45 Snow/weather/climate data (2014 assignment) – Review status of data for the herd’s range and local knowledge about changes. Assess effects of the additional effort agencies have put into this data since 2006. – Jennifer McMillan, Bureau of Land Management

11:15 Research Priorities, Ongoing Management & Research, WACH Bibliography (2014 lists attached)

- Research Priorities – *In the 2011 Cooperative Management Plan, the Technical Committee is tasked with annually “evaluating progress toward meeting information gaps identified by the Working Group” (2011 plan, p. 15) and annually updating a “priority list of information needs” (p. 26). TC meeting task is to*

review the list of top research priorities developed in 2014 and revise as needed.

- Ongoing Management & Research – HOMEWORK task. Review and update list of on-going management and research activities. Comments to Jan Caulfield at janc@gci.net by January 30, 2016.
- WACH Bibliography – HOMEWORK task. Review and update WACH bibliography. Comments to Jan Caulfield at janc@gci.net by January 30, 2016.

11:45 Lunch

1:00 Research Reports

- 1:00 Tundra in Transition: Unraveling the dynamics of western Alaska caribou tundra ecosystems – Dr. Don Spalinger, University of Alaska Anchorage
- 1:30 Persistence of Subsistence: Factors Affecting Wild-Food Harvests in Rural Alaska, 1982-2013 – Jim Magdanz, University of Alaska Fairbanks

2:15 Break

2:30 Research Reports (continued)

- 2:30 Fall movements of herd through Noatak preserve in relation to environmental and human activity variables – Tim Fullman, The Wilderness Society

3:00 Additional topics

3:30 Technical Committee Report to Working Group (Confirm elements of TC report)

4:30 Adjourn Technical Committee Meeting

After meeting – brief discussion with Jan Caulfield, Kari Rasmussen, Brittany Sweeney & Kyle Joly about WACH website.